



Beach & Bay Buddies

Best friends enjoy best of both worlds

One looks out over the bay, lights aglitter along her dock. The other has the beach at her doorstep. They both say they have the “best of all worlds,” and by that they mean not only right there in their own Haven Beach homes, but also in each other’s. Lynn Doyle and Mary Matheson have been best friends “forever.” You know about forever: It starts the moment two people who are destined to have a friendship like Lynn and Mary’s cross each other’s path. That was 18 years ago on a tennis court, and, since then, they have been what Samuel Coleridge calls “sheltering trees” for each other.

Over the years, they have laughed and cried, watched each other’s children grow, broken bread together thousands of times

in many places, celebrated the joys, and supported each other through all the challenges that comprise a life.

“It was love at first sight,” says Lynn. She’s referring to her beachfront property and home, although she could just as easily be referring to her best friend. “There are roots here, with families and history. There’s a great sense of longevity.”

Six years ago, when both women and their husbands were vacationing at the Matheson condo on the beach in New Zealand -- something the two couples have done together in the slump of wintery January since the millennium -- Lynn suddenly knew that, when they returned, she would look for beach property stateside, something she had resisted for years.

“I’m really busy with work, home, and a packed social life, and it felt like if I had another place, even at the beach, it would just be one more thing I have to fit in,” she says. “But we literally came back on a Tuesday and we were looking at our house on Sunday. I had no idea how much I would fall in love with the beach lifestyle.”

From her third floor deck, she looks out on a panorama of puff-clouded skies, an expanse of white sand beach, and out over the rooftops, accompanied by the mercurial play of coastal breezes, the swoop of gulls, and a plethora of birds, with an uninterrupted view up and down the Atlantic coast.

Three years ago, Mary and her husband bought their place --

on the bay. “I absolutely love it. Every time I turn onto the Boulevard, I smile. Here I have everything -- my family, friends, this community, and my best friend. I’m blessed.”

And so the path between these friends’ homes is well trodden.

When Lynn acquired her property, she followed the advice of her realtor and immediately called Reynolds Landscaping and Garden Shop. Over the years, Reynolds has maintained the gardens of lush perennials and annuals and dynamic potted annuals -- Peg Reynolds and her daughter Katie Hood know how to make a landscape pop with their choices -- established and maintained an irrigation system, added landscape lighting, and when the Doyles bought a second property -- a quintessential

Tanek H. Hood photos



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Jersey Shore cottage next door to their original purchase - - they turned, again, to Reynolds for a master plan.

“And, boy, did they deliver,” Lynn says. Today there is a courtyard between the two homes that is the focal point for gatherings, large and small. “What I love,” Lynn says, “is how they were able to envision our life here as a family. They maximized the possibilities, creating these special spots. People have no idea when they walk up the street that this little paradise is back here. Reynolds has taken the primacy of the natural landscape and made it ours.”

When Mary needed someone to fix the “terrible landscaping” at her new beach home, she called Reynolds, too. “They yanked everything out and created all new plantings, installed an incredible irrigation system...and, then, a pool, with lighting for the yard and the dock. It absolutely made the property.” Here now lies precision of line, the right balance of light and dark. What Mark Reynolds sees is the flow of a life. He sees the site and the person and allows the site to drive the best design for the life of that person.

For Mary and her bay front home, Reynolds’ design included

an open room on the first floor, a hybrid between an exterior verandah and a more traditional interior living space. The openness allows the landscape to pass through the house.

So, what each friend now has is a harmony of site and structure that neither had been able to articulate on their own, where moments of nature-inspired bliss can cohabit with people having the time of their lives.

Now, Lynn and Mary can look forward at the close of every night they spend on the Island to the opening of a perfect day: sun hanging in the sky, coffee, the newspaper, pedaling up to the gym or the end of the Island, prepping the house(s) for the arrival of friends and family, now including Lynn’s two grandchildren and Mary’s three. The story continues - - a tradition is established, things stay the same, and they change. And these best friends? They acknowledge the trust and the love and the shared values that makes their friendship special, and, whether they know it or not, they are the kind of friends who can sit on a beach chair, at the beach or the bay or anywhere, never say a word, but then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation they ever had. — *Annaliese Jakimides* •



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